

# Soldiers

December 2002 Volume 57, No. 12



## The Official U.S. Army Magazine

Secretary of the Army: Thomas E. White  
Chief of Staff: GEN Eric K. Shinseki  
Chief of Public Affairs: MG Larry D. Gottardi  
Chief, Command Information: COL James M. Allen

### Soldiers Staff

Editor in Chief: LTC John E. Suttle  
Managing Editor: Gil High  
Production Editor: Steve Harding  
Art Director: Helen Hall VanHoose  
Associate Art Director: Paul Henry Crank  
Senior Editor: Heike Hasenauer  
Photo Editor: SSG Alberto Betancourt  
Special Products Editor: Beth Reece  
Graphic Designer: LeRoy Jewell  
Executive Secretary: Joseph T. Marsden

Printing: Gateway Press, Inc.

**Soldiers** (ISSN 0093-8440) is published monthly under supervision of the Army Chief of Public Affairs to provide the Total Army with information on people, policies, operations, technical developments, trends and ideas of and about the Department of the Army. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. ■ Manuscripts of interest to Army personnel are invited. Direct communication is authorized to **Editor, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road, Suite S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581**. Phone: DSN 656-4486 or commercial (703) 806-4486. Or send e-mail to [soldiers@belvoir.army.mil](mailto:soldiers@belvoir.army.mil). ■ Unless otherwise indicated (and except for "by permission" and copyright items), material may be reprinted provided credit is given to **Soldiers** and the author. ■ All photographs by U.S. Army except as otherwise credited.

■ Military distribution: From the U.S. Army Distribution Operations Facility, 1655 Woodson Road, St. Louis, MO 63114-6181, in accordance with Initial Distribution Number (IDN) 050007 subscription requirements submitted by commanders. ■ The Secretary of the Army has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business as required by law of the department. ■ Use of funds for printing this publication was approved by the Secretary of the Army on Sept. 2, 1986, in accordance with the provisions of Army Regulation 25-30. Library of Congress call number: U1.A827. ■ Periodicals postage paid at Fort Belvoir, VA, and additional mailing offices. ■ Individual domestic subscriptions are available at \$38 per year through the Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. For credit card orders call (202) 512-1800 or FAX (202) 512-2250. ■ To change addresses for individual subscriptions, send your mailing label with changes to: Superintendent of Documents, Mail Stop SSOM, Washington, DC 20402. ■ POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Fort Belvoir address above.

[www.soldiersmagazine.com](http://www.soldiersmagazine.com)

## MC '02 at NTC

### 14 Stryker in the Spotlight

The Stryker — the Army's new, wheeled infantry carrier vehicle — was the focus of attention during the Army portion of Exercise Millennium Challenge 2002 at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.



## FEATURES

### 4 Serving God and Country

Chaplains offer spiritual guidance wherever soldiers feel a need for the presence of God.

### 20 Kitchen Artistry

Ensuring that the food soldiers eat is both nourishing and appetizing is as much an art as it is a science.

### 24 From Horse Blood to Hot Pockets

Military rations have come a long way since Mongol horsemen used their mounts as last-ditch nutrition sources.



20

24



30

# Holiday Message ◀13



## 30 One Tough Track

The Army and Marine Corps have joined forces in the creation of a state-of-the-art vehicle test track.

## 33 The Blue-Green Christmas

Texas Guard members help make the holidays memorable for families in need.

## 34 Leapfest '02

Every year soldiers from around the world gather for the International Military Parachute Competition.

## 47 Soldiers Index

# Soldiers Radio **Live** ◀12

## DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Feedback
- 10 Briefings
- 36 Sharp Shooters
- 40 Postmarks
- 42 Legal Forum
- 44 Focus On People
- 46 Around the Services
- 49 Corps of Engineers — The White House



### Front cover:

A special forces soldier prays during a candle-light service in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan. — Photo by Staff Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo, USAF